England's Intereſt:

OR,

A Brief Diſcourſe

OF THE

Royal Fiſhery.

IN

A Letter to a Friend.

The Second Edition.

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OF

The Royal Fiſhery, &c.

SIR,

I Was honour'd with *Yours*; in Anſwer:

The *Coaſts* of **Great Britain** do yield a *Continual* Sea-harveſt of *Gain* and *Benefit*, to *ſuch* as *Diligently* apply *themſelves* to the *Fiſhing Trade*.

The *Summer*-fiſhing for **Herrings**, *beginneth* about *Midſummer*, and *laſteth* ſome part of *Auguſt*. The *Winter*-fiſhing for **Herrings** *laſteth* from *September* to the middle of *November*: Both which extend in place from *Boughones* in *Scotland* to the *Thames* Mouth.

The **Fishing** for **Cod**, at *Alamby*, *Whirlington*, and *Whitehaven*, near the *Coast* of *Lancashire*, from *Easter* until *Whitsuntide*.

The **Fishing** for **Hake**, at *Aberdine*, *Fiscard*, and other *places* between *Wales* and *Ireland*, from *Whitsuntide* to St. *James-tide*.

The **Fishing** for **Cod** and **Ling**, about *Padstow*, within the *Land*, and of *Severn*, from *Christmas* to *Mid-lent*.

The **Fishing** of **Cod** on the *West* part of *Ireland*, (frequented by *those* of *Biscay*, *Galicia*, and *Portugal*) from the *beginning* of *April* until the *end* of *June*.

The **Fishing** for **Cod** and **Ling** on the *North* and *North-east* of *Ireland*, from *Christmas* until *Michaelmas*.

The **Fishing** for **Pilchers**, on the *West* Coast of *England*, from St. *James-tide* until *Michaelmas*.

The **Fishing** for **Cod** and **Ling** upon the *North east* of *England*, from *Easter* until *Midsummer*.

The **Fishing** of **Great Staple-Ling**, and many *other* sorts of **Fish** lying *about* the *Islands* of *Scotland*, and in the *several* parts of the *British* Seas, all the *Year* long.

Out

Out of *these* infinite *Swarms* and *Shoals* of **Fish** in *His Majesty*'s **Seas**, the **Herring**, **Cod**, and **Ling**, taken by the **Dutch**, were by the *most* experienc'd Authors (*even when they had not half their present number of Busses*) valued, *communibus annis*, at no less than *Ten Millions* of Pounds *Sterling*.

Nor will the aforegoing *Estimate* seem strange to *such* as consider, That in *Anno* 1669, by the *Account* Taken in *Holland* of the *Number* of the *Subjects* of the *States-General*, they appear'd, *Two millions Four hundred thousand* Souls, of whom (*besides those* employ'd *in their* Inland *Fishing*) *Four hundred* and *Fifty thousand* were then *maintain'd* by **Fishing** at **Sea**, and the *Traffick* that *depends* thereon.

Now the *Dutch* transporting **Fish** to *foreign* Parts, *Returns* for *it* are made *them* as followeth, *viz.*

From **France**, **Spain**, and **Portugal**, in *Bullion*, *Coyn*, *Honey*, *Oils*, *Prunes*, *Wines*, *Wool*, &c.

From the **Streights**, in *Allom*, *Currans* and other *Grocery-Wares*, *Money*, *Oils*, *Sattins*, *Silks*, *Velvets*, &c.

From

From the **East Countries**, in *Clap-board*, *Copper*, *Corn*, *Deal-boards*, *Dollers*, *Flax*, *Hemp*, *Hungary-Guilders*, *Iron*, *Pitch*, *Soap-Ashes*, *Steel*, *Tar*, *Timber*, *Wainscot*, *Wax*, &c.

From **Germany**, in *Barratees*, and many other *Frankfort* Commodities *Button-Plate* for Armour, with other Munition, *Fustins*, *Glass*, *Iron*, *Millstones*, *Rashes*, *Rhenish-wines*, *Rix-Dollars* in abundance, *Steel*, *Silks*, *Velvets*, &c.

From **Brabant**, in *Hul-shop*, *Lace*, *Ready-Money*, *Tapestries*, &c.

Thus **Holland**, (*whose* Product *is only a few* Hops, Madder, Butter, *and* Cheese) is render'd the *mighty* **Storehouse** of all Foreign *Products* and *Manufactures*; from whose infinite *Miscellany* of *Goods* their Merchants are furnish'd with such *sortible* Commodities as enables them to *Trade* from *Port* to *Port*, without danger of glutting any *Markets*, to the great encrease of their *Riches* and *Navigation*.

If *Holland* (*which is but One hundred and Eighty* Miles *in circuit*) reap so *much* Advantage, and *such* a *number* of the *Dutch* can subsist by *Fishing* on our *Coasts*, how

vast

vast a **Trade** and **Commerce** would a **full Fishery** in *England* beget! The very **Herrings** *usually* taken by *Five hundred* Busses would *yearly* afford *His Majesty* for **Custom** on *Commodities* return'd for *them*, *several Score thousand* Pound: And the *Produce* of such *Herrings* (*taken without the* Expence *of any* Foreign *Commodities*) being *added* to that of the *usual* exported **Products** and **Manufactures** of these *Kingdoms*, will *Yearly much* exceed the *Amount* of *all* our Annual *necessary* **Imports**, and cause *such* an **overbalance** of **Trade**, as will *turn* the *Scale* in *our* Favour, *stop* the *Export* of our **Monies**, and *oblige* our *foreign* Chapmen to send *us* BULLION, to make good the *Difference*.

The Want of **Seamen** enough (*in time of War*) at once to *Man* our *Navy*, and *Navigate* our *Merchantmen* and *Colliers*, is detrimental to *England*, more than the *Charge* of the *War*. Now, the *Men of War* and *Merchantmen* require *many* Seamen, and breed *few*. The *Collier* indeed *brings up* several *Apprentices*, but generally *spends* near as many as he *makes*. The great *Nursery* of **Seamen** is the **Fishery**, where

where *each* Buſs brings up (*it may be*) *ſix, eight*, or *ten* NEW MEN every *Tear*. Nor is their *Value* inferiour to their *Numbers*; many *brave* Officers have been *train'd up* in that *School*; and the *Fiſhermens* Buſineſs *lying* where our *Danger* lies, makes *them* know *how* the *Sands* ſhift, and *where* the *Rocks* and *Shelves* are, and conſequently, moſt *Able* Coaſters and *Admirable* Pilots.

King *CHARLES* the *Second* well knowing the many *Advantages* would *Accrew* to *England* from a *Regular* and *Well-order'd* **Fiſhery**, and that a **Joint Stock** and **Company** was *abſolutely* neceſſary and requiſite to carry on the ſame, was pleaſed, by his **Letters Patents** under the **Great Seal** of **England**, bearing *date* the *Twenty-fifth Day* of *September*, in the 29th Year of his *Reign*, to conſtitute *ſeveral* Perſons of *Honour*, and *others* therein nam'd, and *ſuch others* as thereafter from *time* to *time* ſhould be *admitted* into their **Company** and **Society**, to be *Traders* and *Adventurers* with them; to be *one* BODY-POLITICK and CORPORATE, in *Deed* and in *Name*, by the

Name

Name of, **The Company of the Royal Fishery of England**; to have *perpetual Succession*; thereby also *giving* and *granting* unto the said **Company**, and their **Successors**, divers Beneficial *Clauses*, *Powers*, *Privileges*, and *Immunities*, in order to the better *Government* of the said **Company**, and *Management* of their *Affairs*; as *by* the said *Charter* appears.

Whereupon about *Ten thousand* pounds being *subscrib'd*, the **Company** fell to work, and in a *Three Weeks* Voyage *One* of their *Doggers* brought *them* in *Thirty thousand* **Cod**; and their *Small Craft* took in proportion. But the *Dutch* and *Spaniards* being engag'd in a *War* with *France*, the *French* seiz'd the *Vessels* and *Goods* of the **Company**, as *Dutch*, (*being some, or most of them*, Dutch-*built and mann'd*) which *Loss*, by reason the **Company's Stock** was far *too small*, for *so great* an Undertaking, at that time put a *stop* to *their* further Proceedings: In which *Misfortune* the *Truth* of that **plain Maxim** in Trade and **Manufactory** was evident, That *where there are but few employ'd, they will be found too*

many: And where there are numbers, they may be thought too few.

However, *Merchants* must not give over *all Trade*, because *some* Ships have been *lost*, (**Bought Wit is best.**) The bringing of the *New-River-water* to *London*, (*that now turns to such prodigious Advantage*) was not *Atchiev'd* upon the *first* Attempt: The **Company** having *throughly* weigh'd and consider'd all *former Inconveniencies* and *Impediments*, and *how* to *avoid* them, will *now* set to *work* with a **Sufficient Stock**; and in order thereunto, have caus'd as well the said *Letters Patents* for their Incorporation, as the *Constitution, Laws, Articles, Terms* or *Conditions* of *Subscription*, and bringing in Persons into the said **Company**, to be **Members** of, or **Traders** or **Adventurers** with them *therein*, to be fairly engrossed and made *publick* in **Books** *now Open'd* for receiving *Subscriptions* for *Three hundred Thousand* pounds, being the **Sum** *propos'd* for their *present Stock*; or, at least, *One hundred and Fifty thousand* pounds for them to *begin* withal; the Money subscribed is made *payable* by *Equal* Portions, at

Ten

Ten Quarterly *Payments*, and 3 *per Cent.* allow'd to the *Subſcribers* of the firſt *Hundred and Fifty thouſand* pounds, by *equal Portions* out of their *three* firſt *Quarterly Payments*, but no Money made *payable* till *thirty days* after *publication* of the compleating the ſaid *Subſcription* for the ſaid *firſt Hundred* and *Fifty thouſand* pounds; of which Notice hath been given in *Print*, to the end *ſuch* perſons in *England*, *Scotland*, or *Ireland* might not be *excluded* the *Benefit* of the ſaid 3 *per Cent.* as (*by their early Subſcribing*) ſhould be *diſpos'd* to *entitle* themſelves to the ſame.

And the *better* to keep the **Capital Stock** entire, *one Tenth* of the *Clear* Profits *only* is ſet apart for *paying* Sallaries, *&c.* to the *Managing* **Members, Officers Servants**, and the *Parts* and *Shares* of every one ſetled: So that in caſe of *Loſs* in any *One Year*, the **main Stock** is firſt to be *made good* out of the *next*; Thus the *Salleries* of all **Officers** will entirely *depend* upon their *good* Conduct and *frugal* Management of *Affairs*.

Now divers **Perſons** of **Quality**, and **Merchants**, and **others**, towards the *effe-*

Equal carrying on this *Good Work*, have *already* ſubſcrib'd about *One hundred and Twenty thouſand* Pounds. And, for *your* encouragement in like manner to *promote* the ſame, I ſhall here inſert the *Words* in *Lex Mercatoria*, fol. 172, written by that *famous* Merchant *Gerard Malynes*:

" *Now, to ſhew you truly (ſaith he) what* " *the Charge of a Buſs will be, with all her* " *Furniture, as Maſts, Sails, Anchors, Ca-* " *bles, and with all her Fiſhery-Implements* " *and Appurtenances, at the firſt provided* " *all new, ſhe being between Thirty and For-* " *ty Laſt, will coſt Five hundred Pounds,* " *and may continue twenty Years, with ſmall* " *Reparations: But the Yearly Slite and Wear* " *of her Tackle and War-Ropes, with her* " *Nets, will coſt Eighty pounds.*

" *And the whole Charge for the keeping* " *her at Sea for the whole Summer, or three* " *Voyages, for the filling of an Hundred Laſt* " *of Cask or Barrels*, viz.

	l.		
100 *Laſt of Barrels* ——	72	100 *Laſt of Barrels fill'd, and ſold for* l. 10 per *Laſt, is* — l. 1000	
Salt l. 88. *Beer* l. 42. *Bread* l. 21	151		
Bacon & Butter ——	18		
Peas & Billgis ——	6		
Mens Wages, for 4 Months —	88	*Charg. deduc.* l. 335	
	l. 335	*Gotten* — l. 665	

" *Here*

" *Here* (*ſaith he*) *plainly appeareth,* " *that is gotten Six hundred Sixty five* " *pounds in one Summer, whereof if that you* " *deduct One hundred pound for the wearing* " *of Ship, and the Reparation of her Nets* " *againſt the next Summer, yet ſtill there* " *is Five hundred Sixty five pounds remain-* " *ing one Year, rating the Herrings ſold but* " *at Ten pounds* per *Laſt; which are com-* " *monly ſold by the* Hollanders *at* Dantzig " *for Fifteen and Twenty pounds.*

And ſoon after, **Barrel-Fiſh** *is prov'd no leſs advantageous to the Takers.*

As to your *Suggeſtion,* " *That the Dutch* " *Build cheaper, can Sail with fewer Hands,* " *afford cheaper Freight, and Underſell us.*

Granting it true, That the *Dutch* now *build* cheaper, you muſt own *Engliſh*-built *Ships* are *much* ſtronger, and *abler* to *brook* the *Seas,* and will *laſt twice* as long; for which Reaſon, in above *three* parts of the *World,* they are *more* in *requeſt* and yield *better* Freight; Where then lies the Odds? But pray what ſhould *hinder* the **Company** from *Building* as *Cheap* as the *Dutch.*

For

For **Timber** of their *own* growth, the *Dutch* have none, but are forc'd to *Buy* it in *Germany*; whereas *we* have **Timber** ſufficient, and at *Reaſonable Rates*, growing in *England*; and in *many* places of *Ireland* much ſtately *Timber* lies *waſting* and *decaying*, for want of *Mony* to make the *Ways* paſſible to ſome *Rivers*: Which done, *we* can have it *two thirds* cheaper than the *Dutch*.

For *Inſtance*, the *great Wood* in the County of *Wexford*, near the *Slane*, wherein is *Timber* enough to *build* ſeveral *thouſands* of *Herring-Buſſes*. Now, *Two* or *Three thouſand* Pounds would not only make a *Way* to the ſaid *River*, but ſo effectually *clear* it, as to render *prodigious quantities* of *Timber* profitable both to the *Proprietors* and the *Publick*, which at preſent is of *little* Advantage to either.

Iron *Holland* produceth not, their *Bolt-Rods* are drawn out in *Germany*; Whereas with the *Offal* of the *Timber* uſed in *building Buſſes*, and *Foreſt* of *Dean-Cinders* and *Iron Stone*, (*which Mettel makes moſt excellent Iron*) *ſufficient* quantities may be made in

in *Bar* at *Nine*, and *drawn out* for *Bolts* at *Eleven* Pounds *per* Tun; which is not *Two thirds* what the *Dutch* pay for *theirs*.

Nor *need* the **Company** to divert *any part* of their *Stock* from the **Fishery**, or to be at *expence* (in *cleansing Rivers* to come at *Timber*; or) for setting up *Iron-works*, *&c.* *No*, the *Proprietors* of the *Lands* that *produce* such *Materials*, by the **Companys** *great* Demands, being assur'd of a *certain* Market, will from *thence* receive *sufficient* Encouragement, to *improve* their *Estates*, by such Undertakings.

Hemp the *Dutch* have from the *East Countries*; but now *we* have found out the *right* way of *Retting* and *Dressing* the *Hemp* our *own* produceth, it appears in goodness *Second* to none. Nor can *sufficient* quantities be *wanting* in this *Nation*, since by *Experience* it is *found*, that such *Marsh*-Land as formerly would not yield *forty* Shillings an *Acre*, by being laid under *Hemp*, is at present *Improv'd* to *five* pounds: and the *Methods* are *known* that will render the **Companys** *Cables*, *Cordage* and *Twine* near a *fourth part* cheaper than the *Dutch* can afford them.

Sail cloath is at *Fulham*, (by Mr. *Culliford* and Mr. *Evernden*) already brought to equal *perfection* with the best *Holland's Duck* (*as appears by that served into His Majesty's Stores*) and *they* meeting with due Encouragement, our *Artizans* (*universally allow'd the* Best *upon Earth for Improvements*) may, perhaps in *few* Years, as *far* excel *Others* in Duck, as they *out-do* the *Germans* in fine Steel-works; which tho' *They first* invented, yet now *We make* and *sell* to them.

Masts, Tar, and Deals the *Dutch* have from *Norway*, where (*if we send Sea-made* Herrings, *we shall in a great measure Hinder the* Yearly Export *of our* Mill'd-Money *thither, and yet*) those *Materials* will stand the Company in no more than they do our Neighbours: for, allowing that *Flemish*-built *Ships* are by *Five Shillings a Tun* more advantageous for fetching *Lumber* from thence (*than ours now in fashion*): yet surely the *Danes* and *Swedes* are *able* to bring *us their own* Commodities as *cheap* as *others* can fetch them.

Nor do *we* (*as our Neighbours*) entirely depend upon East-Country *Naval* Stores;

No

No, in case *either* of *Exaction* or *Rupture*, we can be supply'd by our *Plantations* in *America*, where all sorts of them are to be had in *abundance*, and at so easie *Rates*, that *Merchants* already *build* Ships there above a *fourth* part *cheaper* than in **England.**

Pitch is now made at *Reasonable Rates*, of a *Stone* abounding in *Shropshire*, which (*after Two Years Tryal*) is found of such an excellent *nature*, that *Heat* only causeth it to penetrate *deeper* into *Plank*, and *Cold* cannot make it *crackle off*.

In **Building**, for *Strength*, *Stowage*, and *Sailing*, English *Shipwrights* know no *Master*.

Now, as to the *Dutch* **Sailing** *cheaper*, because with *less* Hands, (*none envies them that Happiness*) they *lose* more (*in proportion*) at *Sea* than *we* do, occasion'd by their *Undermanning* their *Ships*; or else what should hinder the **Company** from having *their Ships* and *Vessels built rigged*, and *mann'd* after the *Flemish* Fashion? Yet the *Objection* holds *only* in *Merchants Ships*, to *carry* their **Fish** to *Market*; their *Busses* and *Fisher-boats* carry *more* Men to *catch* **Fish** than are *needful* to *sail* their *Vessels*: And in the *Greenland Voya-*

ges each *Ship* (*to Man their Shalloops when a fishing*) must have *five* times the *Crew* that can *Navigate* her: So that *their* Sailing *cheaper* than *us*, is either of *no force* against the **Fishery**, or it is also *of force* against our *Merchant men* and *Colliers*; and to *discourage* our *Fishing* upon *this* Consideration, is all one as to bid *us quit* all *Navigation* whatsoever, and abandon our selves to the *Mercy* of all *Comers*.

Provisions *we* have of our **own** *growth*. *Meat* and *Drink* in *Ireland*, and in *many* parts of *England*, are as *cheap* again as in *Holland*, which *produceth* no other than *Butter* and *Cheese*; and *those* too are *cheaper* with *us* than with *them*: And *'tis observ'd*, that *what* the *Dutch* Fisher men *save* by *Eating* of *Grout*, they *Drink* (*more than ours*) in *Brandy*.

Salt the *Dutch* are oblig'd to fetch from *France* and *Portugal*, *Holland* yielding them *none* for their *Fishery*: But in *England* enough to *supply* all *Europe* can be made and is now offer'd *(to the* **Company**, *for their* Fishery) at *Twelve-pence* per *Bushel*, deliver'd on board: And this *our Salt* is of so *noble* a *quality*, that it will

remove all those *Mischiefs* which at present (*in the Fishery*) have relation to *Salt*.

We have *many* Convenient **Tide-Haven-Ports**, as at *Hull* and *Harwich*, to the *Northward*, and *Dover*, *Rye*, *Portsmouth*, *Southampton*, *Cowes*, *Weymouth*, *Dartmouth*, *Catt-water*, *Hamos*, *Fowey*, *Falmouth*, *Hilford*, *Scilly*, and *Milford*, *Westward*; where at *low*-water all of *them* are either a *small Chingle* or *hard Sand*; so that *our Ships* and *Vessels* may easily haul *ashore*, and *Wash* and *Tallow* at *pleasure*.

Creeks and *commodious places* are not wanting to lodge *our* Busses *safe* when not *employ'd*, so as to prevent *Wear* of *Cables*, *Charge* of *Watching*, *Danger* of *Fire*, *&c.* and *several* of the said *Subscribers* having been concern'd in the *Dutch Fishery*, will be able to manage *ours* with all possible *Foresight*, *Frugality*, & *Good Husbandry*, and *frame* such a *Body* of Instructions, for well *Curing*, true *Packing*, *&c.* as may bring our **Fish** into *repute*, and be *sufficient* to give *Light* to each other *Particular*, that can *rationally* be *suppos'd* to be of *moment* for the *Safety* and *better managing* the **Fishing Trade**.

Besides, the **Dutch** have above **a Hundred Leagues** to sail before they *come* to their *Fishery*, and *there* they *lye* at the *Mercy* of the *Winds*, for want of a *Port* to *Friend*; and in case of *unloading*, they have as *far* back again; which *takes* up a *great* deal of *Time*, hinders their *Business*, and endangers the *loss* of their *Markets*. It is true, *they* have their *Tagers* or *Dogger-Boats*, many times to take off their *Fish* at *Sea*, and refurnish them with *Cask*, and *other* Necessaries: But if it happens to be a *rowling Sea*, *they* must *lye still*, and wait for a *Calm*. Whereas *we* have this so *Valuable* a *Treasure* at our *Feet*, the **Fish** upon *our* own *Coasts*, so near our *Shoars*, that in Case of *Storm*, *unloading*, taking in of *Provisions*, or the like, it is *seldom* above *four* or *five* hours Work (*and most commonly not so much*) to recover a *Harbour*, and, without *loss* of *Time*, to put to *Sea* again; the Work of **Unloading**, **Repacking**, and *sending* our **Fish** *away* to the next **Market**, still going on, in all *Weathers*; and from *some* parts of His *Majesty's Dominions*, before the *Dutch* can arrive in *Holland*, we may be at our *Markets* in *France*,

France, *Spain*, or *Italy*, and ſo anticipate our Neighbours.

Heretofore the **Hamburgers** uſed alſo to **Fiſh** for **Herrings** with Buſſes; but being *Yearly* **frozen** up *one* month longer than the **Dutch**, by that *one* **twelfth** Diſadvantage were *beaten* out of the *Trade*. Now, the *Shoars* of *England* are *bold*; the Coaſts *High Land*, and *eaſily* diſcover'd; *ſeveral* of our *Cape-Lands* (*oppoſite to* France *and* Holland) make *Eddy Bays*, whoſe *depth* of *Water* is mean, as 6, 8, 10, or 12 *fathom*; the *Tydes* (*on our Coaſt*) are *ſmall* and *Anchor hold*, generally *ſtiff Clay*, *Chalk*, or *hard Gravel*; ſo that *we* need not dread *Winter Storms*; beſides the *Advantage* of *lying* in a *moderate Climate*, and in the very *Center* of the *Trade* of *Europe*, affords us *Opportunity* of ſending to *foreign* parts from *divers* of our *Ports* at *all* Seaſons of the *Year*. But the *Coaſt* of *Holland* lies extream low, (*and conſequently is moſt ſubject to be hazey and foggy*) hath many *Shoals* and *Sands*, ſome of which lay ſo far *off* at *Sea*, that *many* times *Ships* are *ſtranded* before they *ſee* Land. *Their Ports*,

Ports likewiſe are *oft* choaked up with *Quick-ſands*, which makes it *dangerous* for all *great Ships* to *approach* them. *Their Havens* alſo are commonly *frozen up* ſome *months* together, and a *North-weſt* Wind (*generally blowing the greateſt part of the Year*) makes *Holland* a *Lee*, and *England* a *Weather*-Shore: So that *many times*, whilſt *they* lye *Wind-bound*, or *frozen up* at home, *we* can ſupply the *Markets* abroad.

"*The* Dutch, *you note*, *are already ſetl'd* "*in the* Fiſhery.

I Anſwer: Not *many Years* ſince, *we* imported *Silk-Stockings* from the *Levant*; yet *now* the Stream is turn'd, and *we* ſend *them* thither.

Trade often ſhifts from one *place* to *another*: The King of *Portugal*, in *Anno* 1500, having diſcover'd the *Paſſage* to the *Eaſt Indies* by the *Cape of Good Hope*, and by it *diverted* the Courſe of *Trade driven* by the *Venetians*, from *Alexandria* and the *Red-Sea*, to *his Port* of *Lixbon*; kept *Factors* in *Antwerp*, to vend there his *Indian* Commodities; which drew ſeveral *Merchants*

chants from divers *Parts*, to reſide *there*, and made the *Trade* of that pleaſant-ſeated City great and eminent. But when about *Anno* 1602, the *Dutch* began to Rival *Portugal* in that *Trade*, the *Merchants* of *Antwerp* immediately *foreſeeing* that they ſhould be Out-done, *reſolving* not to *looſe* the *Advantage* of the *Skill* they had acquir'd in *Indian* Commodities, remov'd to *Amſterdam*, by which means they *Improved* their own *Eſtates*, and left *Antwerp* bare.

England being as much happier than *Holland* in its *Scituation*, *Ports*, and *Havens*, as ſuperior to *it* in the *Native Growth* and *Production* of its **Soil** and **Seas** for *Commerce*, affording us Trade (*as it were*) without *Art* or *Labour*, whilſt our *Neighbours* are oblig'd to *force* theirs by *Aſſiduity* in both. A **Royal Fiſhery**, if *Eſtabliſh'd* here, where (*beſides all other Advantages*) no *Duty* is paid upon the **Fiſh** we Export, muſt needs *bear away the Bell* from *thoſe* who pay **ten** *per Cent.* Cuſtom: and **Where Trade goes, Merchants follow.**

You

You alledge, "*The* Dutch *are more painful, hardy, and better able to fiſh than the* "Engliſh.

I anſwer: *Our* Men run *daily more* Hazard and ſuffer *greater* Hardſhips in *other* Voyages than in Fiſhing: And for *hard Labour*, certainly the *working* of a *Mine* is incomparably *beyond* that of a *Buſs*. And as to the *Genius* of *our* People, it is remarkable, that *ſuch* Boys and *Country* Fellows as at *Tarmouth*, *Scarborough*, &c. are *once* hired into the Fiſhing, and come to *feed* on the Fiſh they catch, which for *Variety* and *Delicacy* (*being freſh taken*) is a *Treat* beyond what is to be *had* on *Shore*: It *improves* them at ſuch a *rate*, that of *pitiful* Weaklings at *Land*, they come to be *hearty*, *ſtout*, and *healthful* perſons; and upon tryal, find it ſo much to *their* liking, that not *One* in *Twenty* but take to the *Sea* for good and all.

You ſay, "*Iriſh Cattel were prohibited* "*to keep up Rents, and making* Fiſh *cheap in* "England *will hinder the ſale and conſumption of* Fleſh, *and thereby make Rents* "*fall.* I an-

I anſ. The *Profits* of **Land** do not wholly conſiſt in *Breeding*. The **Fiſhery** will cauſe a vaſt *Expence* of **Butter**, and make *Farmers* run much upon **Dairies**; the *Buſineſs* whereof (*tho' perform'd by the fair Sex*) turns to as great *Advantage* as the hardeſt *Labour* the *Husbandman* can ſpend his Time in. Now, tho' in *Breeding*, all the *Labour*, *Hazards* of *Rearing*, *hard Winters*, *&c.* are the *Farmer's*, the greateſt *Advantage* ariſing from **Cattel** ſtill accrews to the *Grazier*, *Drover*, and *Butcher*: But, in a *Dairie*, all the *care* and *pains* is taken by the *Good Houſewife*; and at her return from *Market* the *Farmer* receives all the *Profit* to himſelf, and ſo with **Eaſe** can **Pay** his **Landlord**.

The **Royal Fiſhery** (*as is ſhown*) will alſo occaſion *Imployment* for many *Thouſands* of both *Sexes*, who, tho' now thro' Poverty, live only upon *Bread*, *Water*, *Pulſe-Roots*, and the like, when once they have the *Rewards* of their *Labours* in their *Hands*, will not *Puniſh* their *Carcaſſes* to *ſpare* their *Purſes*, but drink **Strong Beer**, and eat **Roaſt Beef**, &c.

But ſuppoſing (*for Argument ſake*) *Victuals* ſhould not *remain* at a very exceſſive *rate*, yet where a greater *Conſumption* cauſeth a quick *Market*, tho' at a midling *Price*, (*if the Proverb be true*) **Light Gains will make a heavy Purſe.**

Beſides, in *England* many *Acres* are now *ſet* for *Five* or *Ten* Shillings an *Acre*, and the *Tenants* ſcarce *able* to pay *that*, which under *Corn* might *yield* the *Farmer three* or *four* pounds, now abate in *grazing*, and *plough* up more *Paſture*, and *Fleſh* will *hold* its *price*.

If to *this* you *Anſwer*, "*We often ſee Corn* "*ſo cheap, that the Farmers are broke by it,* "*and what would they do with greater quan-* "*tities?*

It's reply'd; The *Reaſon* why *Farmers* ſometimes want *Vent* for their *Grain*, is, becauſe we have *not* always *Store*, and therefore *Merchants* make no *Proviſion* for the *Trade*: But if we yearly *ſow* ſuch *quantities* of Corn, beyond the *Expence* of the *Nation*, as *Merchants* may be *no leſs* certain of a *conſtant* Supply *here* than *they* are in the SOUND, (*where the Country de-*

depends as much on their Harveſt, as France *does on its Vintage) Plenty* will *ſoon* create a *Trade*; the *Advantage* of ENGLANDS lying ſo *much* nearer than DANTZIG, to the *places* where *Foreign Corn* is expended, together with the *Allowance* granted by the 25 *Car.* II. upon the *Exporting* thereof, will *ſufficiently* encourage *Merchants* to *deal* therein.

Beſides, *moſt* of our *Ships* are ſent *light* to *Bilboa* and *Lisbon*, (*now what loads our Ships helps our Navigation*) and our *Exports* to *Lisbon* not *anſwering* our *Imports* from *thence*, the *more we* ſend *them* in Corn, the *leſs* their Wines will *coſt* the *Nation* in READY MONY, or BILLS of EXCHANGE, which is all one.

But if you alledge, "*Sowing Quantities* "*will make Corn cheap, and that will alſo* "*make Rents fall.*

I *Anſwer*; Yearly *catching* Quantities of Fiſh, and *ſowing* much Corn, will (*morally ſpeaking*) render *England* leſs *ſubject* to a *Famine*, which (*as Sir* Walter Rawleigh *truly obſerves*) never happens *here*, but it

enriches Holland for Seven *Years* after, *they* having, in a *Dearth*, for the *Corn* they *ſold* us in a *Year* and a *half*, (*according to that great man's eſtimate*) carried away no *leſs* than *Two Millions of Pounds* Sterling, to the *Impoveriſhment* of the *People*, *Diſcredit* of the *Merchants*, and *Diſhonour* of the *Land*. Beſides, Are *Proviſions* cheaper? There needs *leſs* Taxes in *time* of *War*, a *leſs* Rate will *maintain* the *Poor*, *Houſekeeping* will be *leſs* chargeable, the *Labourer* will require *leſs* Hire, and the *Artiſan* afford his *Work* cheaper; which muſt *fall* the *Price* of all our *Products* and *Manufactures*, and conſequently *enlarge* their *Exports* and *Expence* at *home*. Now, if (according to the *Proverb*) a Penny ſav'd be a Penny got, where's th *Hurt* the Fiſhery will do the Lan-de-Man?

But ſuppoſing there were only *Five hundred* pounds *Sterling* in *England*, an Or could *hardly* be worth a *Penny*, nor th *Mony* Rent of all *England* be *Five hundred* pounds *per annum*. Now, Gold or Silver-Mines *England* hath *none*, and (*in time of Peace*) *we* have *no* way to get

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BULLION from *other* Countries, but by *foreign* Trade, to which *nothing* can more *conduce* than *cheap* **Fishing**, and the *cheap* working our Native Commodities, as **Copper, Lead, Iron Tin, Allom, Copperice, Coals, Wool,** *&c.* and *cheap making* the *Manufactures* that compose the **Exports** of the *Kingdom*; and that is *not* to be *effected*, except *Labour* be *cheap*, which it can *never* be where *Provisions* are *dear*.

Now, the more the *Nation* abounds with **Fish, Corn,** *&c.* still the *greater* will its *Exports* be; and when the *Wheel* is set a going, *Trade* will beget *Trade*, as *Fire* begets *Fire*, and still the more it *encreaseth*, the more will *Industrious People* from *all* Parts *flock* to us, and *Crowds* will not only *force* cheap Labour, but *improve* our *Lands*, *encrease* our *Manufactories*, and enlarge our *Product* far beyond the *whole* Expence of our *Nation*, and thereby (*in proportion*) add to its *Wealth* and *Treasure* for *Merchants* exporting the *Surplus*, will in **Returns** bring back **Gold, Silver,** and other *Valuable* **Commodities**, which, in *England*, that hath *Property* by *succession* of *Contracts*, will *diffuse* amongst its *Inhabitants*, whose

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number, will ſtill *encreaſe* with our *foreign* **Trade**, and as they *augment*, will *more and more* improve our **Lands**, by encreaſing the *Vent* of our **Product** and **Manufactures**, even in the *very Expence* of *them* that are *added*, one *man* that *works* having (*perhaps*) *five* or *ſix* that only *eat* and *wear*. And **much Vent will cauſe many Workmen.** And *thus*, as the *conſumption* of the *Native Product*, and the *number* of *Perſons* (*made rich by their Labour and Induſtry*) encreaſe, and the *Choice* of **Tenants** and **Chapman** is enlarg'd, a kind of *Competition* amongſt *them* muſt and will make **Rents** and **Lands** *Advance* in *proportion*: Witneſs **Holland**, and ſuch of our *Lands* in *England* as lye near *great* and *populous* Corporations.

You Object, "*Our* **Treaſure** *is much* "*exhauſted.*

I Anſwer: The greater the *Dearth*, the more Care ſhould be had to *Seed* the *Ground*, leſt the *Famine* encreaſe; the *more* our **Wealth** is *diminiſh'd*, the greater *cauſe* **we** have to *lay hold* on the **Fiſhery**, which (*as is ſhown*) ſo much *enricheth* our *Neighbours*,

hours, and, by parity of Reason, must abundantly *add* to our *Treasure*.

You reckon, "*Two thousand Five hundred* "*Persons in a whole Year are hardly able to* "*make a Fleet of Nets, only for Five hundred* "**Busses**; *and because* England *hath many* "*Wasts, and much unimprov'd Lands, conclude* "*we shall want Hands to carry on the Work.*

Now, *Sir*, be pleas'd to consider, That a *full* employment of the *Hands* we have is the *best* way to *get* more: For, **Such as our Imployment is for People, so many will our People be**: That in *England* (*besides Voluntary Charity*) the **Poor Rate** in the latter end of *King* CHARLES the *Second*'s Reign, came to *Six hundred sixty five thousand Three hundred sixty two* pounds Sterl. *per Annum*; and *we* have *Reason* to believe *it* now much *higher*: Whereby it is *evident*, what *vast numbers* of *Beggers* and *Idle Persons* now *live* upon the *Publick*, without *return* of *Labour* for their *Bread*. Consider likewise of what a *happy* and *involting* Nature the *easie* Business of the **Fishery** is, affording *Work* to each *Member* of a Family; **Boys** and **Girls** may do the work

work of *ſpinning* Twine; even the Lame, the Weak, and the Aged of *both Sexes* may ſit *dry* and *warm*, and yet earn *their Livelihoods* by *Braiding* Nets, and picking *Oakum*, *&c.* nay, the very *Blind* may *get* their *Bread* by turning *Wheels*; and *you'll* find reaſon to *conclude*, that were our own *Poor* ſet to work, *we* ſhould not *longer* need to have our *Nets* made or mended at *Enchuyſen* in *Holland*. Now, as a *conſtant* Employment of ſuch *Poor* will be a continual *eaſe* and *comfort* to them, by *amuſing* and *diverting* them from *thinking* of their *Poverty*, or other *Miſery*, ſo will it alleviate the Nation's Burthen, and in *ſome* meaſure be a *Repeopling* of *us* too, by *adding* ſo many *loſt Hands* to the *Service* of the *Publick*.

It is hoped, by *conquering*, or at leaſt *ſtreightning* our *Enemies*, we ſhall ſhortly *oblige* them to an *honourable Peace*, and the *War* ended; what an *Advantage* will it be for *Soldiers*, to *find* in the *Fiſhery* work ready to their *Hand*, the want whereof hath *formerly* occaſion'd many (*when diſbanded*) to *leave* the *Kingdom*, or *take* the *Road*.

Nor

Nor need *we* fear, but the many *Thousands* of *English*, *Scotch*, and *Irish* Mariners that *serve* our *Neighbours*, will *return* home, when so *certain* and so *profitable* an *Employment* as the **Royal Fishery** is set on foot here, *who* doubtless will be *able* to *Catch*, *Cut*, *Pack*, *Salt*, and *Cure* Fish for *us*, as well as *they* used to *do* for *them*, and consequently to *teach* others.

Should *Hands* be yet wanting to manage the **Fishery**, the **Parliament** can *easily* make good that *Defect*, by enacting, That *all such* single Persons as (*by the Statutes of* 43 El. 2. 1 Jac. 25. 21 Jac. 28. *and the* 3 Car. 4.) *the Churchwardens and* Overseers *of the* Poor *are impowered to put out* Apprentices; *together with all such other as shall be put out* Apprentices by any Corporations, or *other publick* Charities, (*upon due request made on behalf of the said* **Company**, *should by such* Churchwardens *and* Overseers, *or by a* Justice *of the* Peace, *be bound* Apprentice *to the said* **Company**) *for* Seven *Years, to learn* One *of the* Two *and* thirty *Trades that relate to the* **Fishery**, *for whom the* **Companys** *Interest will oblige* them *to*

provide the ſobereſt *and* beſt *Workmen* o
each Trade. And how to prevent their
deſerting the **Company's** Service, can b
ſhown beyond *Objection.*

Now, *this* being altogether **impractica**
ble in *Holland*, for ſeveral *other* Reaſons a
well as their having no ſuch *Numbers* o
Poor Children to *put* out *Prentice*, wi
mueh *Overpoiſe* the preſent Advantage
the *Dutch*'s Low Intereſt at 3 *per Cent.* (th
*efficient cauſe of all their Wealth and Gran
deur*) and conſequently confirm to us ou
Fiſhery, together with all that long Chai
of *Bleſſings* inſeparably link'd to it.

For, *allowing* the *Charge* of **Fiſhing** wit
each Buſs to *conſiſt*, $\frac{1}{3}$ in the *Buſs* and *Rig
ging*, $\frac{1}{3}$ in *Victuals*, *Nets*, *&c.* and $\frac{1}{3}$ in *Sea
mens Wages*, and the *whole* to be *Nine hun
dred* pound.

That neither our *Buſs* and *Rigging*, no
Craft and *Victualling* will *coſt* us ſo muc
as the *Dutch* muſt *pay* for *theirs*, is *alread*
ſhown: Yet however admit they *did*, an
their Charge ſhould *together* amount t
Six of the ſaid *Nine hundred* Pound, the
Three hundred remains for *Wages.*

Now if the **Company** the *first* Year have but $\frac{1}{3}$ of a *Busses* Crew their *own* Servants, (*bateing what is paid more to Officers till their own Apprentices are fit to command*) it will *save* them *One* of the said *Three hundred* Pound. And supposing that the *next* Year the **Company** should have one *half* of a Busses *Crew* to be their *own* Servants, it would then save them *One hundred* and *Fifty* of the said *Three hundred* Pounds. And *thus* their **Fish** would stand *them* the *first* Year in about *Ten*, and the *next* in near *Fifteen per Cent. less* than the *Dutch*; and so *propotionable* to the *number* of their *Servants*, their *Profits* will *encrease*, till at length *paying* little or no *Wages*, they may *afford* to *sell* **Fish** to the *Hollanders* cheaper than *they* can *catch* them.

If to this you Object, "*The Company's* "*Servants will loyter, &c. and catch few* "*Fish*.

I Answer: Such a *Method* for making *each* perform his *Duty* is *already* propos'd, as is *Objection*-Proof.

For want of having been bred up to *Trades*, many of our Poor *now* either *leave* the *Land*, *perish* for *Want*, or come to *untimely Ends*; But the Companys *Apprentices* being, in the Fishing Season, *employed* at *Sea*, and *working* at *other* times *ashore*, at *that* of the said *Two* and *thirty* Trades *relating* to the Fishery, to *which they* are *bound*; when their *Time* is out, will be *able* to *get* their Livelihoods either at Sea or Land. And if to render them *more* capable of *Serving* their *Country*, the Company shall at four a Clock each *Saturday* in the *Afternoon*, cause them (*when ashore*) to *Muster* and *Exercise*, (*altho only with Staves*) and, for Diversion, to *play* at *Cudgels*, or *fence*, and *reward* the *Conquerors* with the *Liberty* of wearing a small *Ribbon*, whose *different colour* of *Red*, *Blew*, &c. should distinguish them to be *Captains*, *Lieutenants*, *&c.* and should cause *them* to be *called* and *Respected* as *such*, by *the rest* of *their Fellow*-Servants, till *next weeks Tryal* of *Skill*; how *soon* would *Emulation* beget *Address!* and what a *Treasure* and *Strength* to England would each Thousand of such *Sea-Militia* be, always

ways *ready* for *Service*, both by *Sea* and *Land*, and yet *no Charge* to the *Nation* till *actually* in it.

Now as to *your* main *Objection*, "Stock-"jobbing.

I *confeſs*, many worthy *Enterprizes*, as working *Mines*, ſetting up *New Manufactures*, and the *like*, have been *baffled* by it; for, when by *Stockjobbing* Shares were raiſed to Above their *Intrinſick Value*, the *firſt Undertakers*, that *perfectly* underſtand the *Work* (*being generally ſuch as have ſpent much of their Time, and almoſt all their Eſtates, in acquiring that Skill*) have been tempted to *ſell* out; and *Ignoramus's* coming in their *places*, for want of due *Meaſures*, the whole *Buſineſs* hath fallen to the *Ground*.

About *Three Years* ſince, Monſieur *de Ponchartrin*, one of the *French* Miniſters of *State*, concerted how to *Stockjobb* the *Dutch Eaſt-India Company*, in hopes to breed a Confuſion in *Holland*; but the preſſing *Occaſions* his *Maſter* had for *Moneys* obliged him to *deſiſt* from putting it *then* in *practice*. And, to *ſee* ſuch a *Trade* as of late

hath

hath been *driven*, is sufficient to make *men* conclude *Stockjobbing* is not always carried on by meer **Merchants**.

To prevent which, it is *hoped*, that next Session of *Parliament* it will be made *Penal* for *any* to sell more *Shares* or *Stock* in a **Company**, or **Joynt-Undertaking**, than *they* actually have Credit for (*in their own Names*) in the *Books* of such respective **Company** or **Undertaking**, *except* where the *Vender* sells in quality of *Executor* or *Administrator* to any *Person* deceas'd, or as *Guardian* to any under *Age* or *Lunatick*; and in Cases where the *Proprietor* of such **Stock** or **Credit** sold (*being in remote parts*) hath under *Hand* and *Seal* given Special *Power* to *sell* the same.

And *also*, that it will be **Enacted**, That all *Contracts* shall be *null*, where the *Shares* or *Stock* sold is not (*within three days after*) actually *Transfer'd* and *Accepted* in the **Books** of *each* respective **Company** or **Undertaking**.

To Your Objecting, "*The greatness of* "*the Undertaking*;

I answer: The *Flemings* were *long* setled in the Manufacturing of *our Wool*, yet (*in*

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Edward *the Third's time*) when *we* ſet about it our ſelves in good *earneſt*, *we* effectually fix'd that *Rich Staple* in *England*. The *Dutch* likewiſe, for *many* Years after, had the *Dreſſing* and *Dying* of our *Woollen Manufactures*; but when *we* undertook the Work, *they* were *ſoon* deprived of that *Advantage*. Which ſo *great Benefits* our *Country* would have yet *wanted*, had not *any* ſet about *them*, becauſe *all* had *thought* them *too* big to be *accompliſhed*.

To conclude, *we* may *eaſily* aſſert and maintain the juſt *Right* and *Title* Providence hath given *His Majeſty* to that *Richer Mine* than both *Indies* afford, the **Fiſhery** of the **Britiſh** and **Iriſh** *Seas*; And that *without* quarrelling with our Neighbours: for by *only* a frugal and induſtrious Management of *Affairs*, We ſhall *quickly* become **Sole Maſters** of the **Fiſhing Trade**. For Shame then let not **Engliſhmen** longer ſay, (*with* Solomon's *Sloathful*) ——— ——☞ *There's* a **Lyon** *in the way*.

Surely we have reaſon to believe *our great KING*, who *Ventures* his **Royal Perſon** ſo *freely*, for the Preſervation of *theſe his Kingdoms*, will not *deny* the *Aſſiſtance* of his

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his *Special* Grace and Favour, to a *Work* that in so *great* a *measure* will contribute to our growth in **Trade** and **Treasure.**

And what *just Encouragement* may *we* not *hope* for from the *Parliament*, seeing in the *Preamble* of an *Act* passed in 14 *Car.* II, *cap.* 28, it is declar'd, That **the Publick Honour, Wealth and Safety of this Realm, as well in the maintenance of Trade and support of Navigation, as in many other respects, doth in an high degree depend upon the Improvement and Encouragement of the Fishery,** &c.

Thus, Sir, what has been *Collected* Answers *your* Letter; if at *your* Coming to *Town* you shall think fit to *peruse* the Books of the said Company, *lying* at their HALL in *Thames-street* near the *Three Cranes*, and at the *Office* of *Puckle* and *Jenkins*, Publick Notaries in *Popes-head-alley* over against the *Royal* Exchange, *London* (*wherein as well the said* Letters Patents, Constitution, *as all the* Terms of Subscription, *are fairly engross'd*) *notwithstanding the* many idle *Reports so* industriously *spread abroad to Obstruct this Undertaking*, (*by* such, *perhaps*, *as* envy *the* Strength *and* Happiness *that would* accrew *to* England *by a well-regulated* Fishery) doubt not but you'll receive *full Satisfaction.*

Yours,

London, Sept. 30. 1696.

James Puckle.

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